



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: July 17 – July 23, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 23, 2006

The Commonwealth experienced hot temperatures this week, while scattered rain showers were welcomed throughout the state. Days suitable for field work were 5.5. On average, the state received normal precipitation, and endured above-normal temperatures. Rain toward the end of the week helped to replenish soil moisture levels. Some areas, such as a few communities in Pulaski County, experienced severe storms and hail damage. Pastures and hay fields continue to green with the improvement in growing conditions. Conditions this week were good for cutting and baling hay and straw. Most field crops are showing good yield potential. The majority of corn is in good condition and soybeans are blooming. Soybean producers are monitoring the crop for insect problems. Insect damage seems to be a big concern for all crops this week. Vegetable producers reported very good yields and quality, while harvest continues for tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and other vegetables. Tobacco continues to look good in the fields. Other farm activities this week included hay harvest, pasture clipping, and routine farm maintenance.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
June 25, 2006	9	25	56	10
July 2, 2006	1	15	66	18
July 9, 2006	1	10	76	13
July 16, 2006	0	8	81	11
July 23, 2006	2	18	73	7

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 23, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	95	64	77	2	1.34	0.50	3
Warrenton	93	67	80	5	0.90	0.06	3
Winchester 7 SE	96	64	78	4	0.13	-0.72	2
Dale Enterprises	93	63	76	3	1.61	0.77	2
WESTERN							
Glasgow	96	65	79	5	0.43	-0.41	2
Roanoke AP	95	66	80	5	0.21	-0.70	2
Waynesboro	92	63	76	4	0.00	-0.83	0
Staunton AG	93	62	76	4	1.72	0.89	3
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	96	66	80	4	0.34	-0.78	3
Piedmont Res ST	94	65	80	4	1.53	0.48	3
Bremo Bluff	102	60	81	5	0.48	-0.38	2
Richmond AP	99	70	84	7	2.70	1.51	2
EASTERN							
Eastville	93	75	83	5	0.00	-0.84	0
Wallops Island	93	71	81	3	2.69	1.92	2
Williamsburg	95	70	82	4	0.86	-0.31	3
Keysville	95	66	79	4	1.01	0.10	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	91	60	74	4	0.56	-0.35	3
Wytheville	90	58	73	2	0.22	-0.76	3
Saltville	92	62	76	6	1.61	0.50	4
Richlands	90	61	74	8	1.86	0.79	3
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	93	64	78	4	0.19	-1.07	3
Danville AG	96	69	81	4	1.95	0.91	3
Chatham	92	63	77	3	0.75	-0.3	3
Martinsville	93	63	77	3	1.76	0.64	5
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	94	73	83	5	0.00	-1.19	0
Oceana	94	71	82	5	0.00	-1.12	0
Emporia	95	69	81	5	0.57	-0.34	2
Newport News	96	70	83	5	0.00	-1.19	0

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS**Week Of July 17 –July 23, 2006**

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	2	9	38	47	4
Livestock	1	5	22	65	7
Other Hay	7	17	37	38	1
Alfalfa Hay	4	8	33	51	4
Corn	0	2	21	55	22
Soybeans	0	5	21	61	13
Flue-cured Tobacco	1	6	25	56	12
Burley Tobacco	0	0	19	74	7
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	2	7	42	48	1
Peanuts	0	0	11	65	24
Cotton	0	6	15	55	24
All Apples	0	0	59	41	0
Peaches	0	15	41	42	2
Grapes	0	0	9	89	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	83	74	70	74
Corn Dough	40	27	16	35
Corn Dent	7	0	6	6
Soybeans Blooming	34	11	28	29
Soybeans Setting Pods	9	3	0	6
Peanuts Pegged	76	60	67	64
Cotton Setting Bolls	60	25	46	51
Summer Potatoes Harvested	45	20	45	67
Summer Apples Harvested	25	22	10	36
Peaches Harvested	28	5	16	30

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

FAUQUIER COUNTY (Tim Mize):

Rainfall has been evenly dispersed across the county. Pastures are in good shape for this time of year, with cattle holding body condition. The majority of corn has silked, and soybeans are blooming.

HALIFAX COUNTY (Traci Talley):

The county received several scattered thunderstorms this week but not a lot of rain. The county also endured very high temperatures. The tobacco looks good. Topping continues and harvest has begun.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY (Mark Davis):

Most field crops show good yield potential. These crops can produce average or better yields with additional timely rains. Total annual hay yields may still be low even if a good fall cutting is harvested.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

The county needs rain. Producers are seeing good tomato and potato crops. Farmers are actively scouting for pests in soybeans. Some farmers are taking a short vacation.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

It was a very hot week, but rainfall on Friday and Saturday helped replenish soil moisture levels. Barring a catastrophic hurricane, corn yields should be very good to excellent. Storage concerns are already surfacing. There have been some reports of slow growth in soybeans, but for the most part, double crop soybeans are off to a good start. Applying herbicides to crop continued during the reporting period.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

High temps and dry condition have changed the looks of things this week as corn, soybeans and other crops begin to suffer. Predicted thunderstorms, etc. this weekend could bring relief. Early soybeans in some locations will be affected in yield by the dry conditions. Corn still appears good to very good. Some late planted corn is now in need of rain. What a difference a week makes! Vegetable production has been good in yield and quality. Producers are scouting this week for pests in soybeans as they wrap up post herbicide treatments. Corn earworm surveys continue this week. Farm spruce-up and equipment repairs continue. Summertime field days and conferences will begin in the next couple of weeks.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

We had a very hot, mostly dry week in Westmoreland County. One very localized shower hit in the Oak Grove area on Wednesday. Corn, beans and vegetable crops could use some rain and relief from the heat. Temperatures were approaching a hundred this past week. It was a fairly good week for cutting and baling hay and straw. Farmers were finishing some late wheat harvest and planting double crop soybeans. Farmers are also spraying soybeans for weeds. We have started monitoring for soybean insect problems. Moth catches went up in traps so producers will be watching soybeans fields for corn earworm in a couple of weeks. Vegetable harvest continued for peppers, tomatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, sweet corn, etc.

PULASKI COUNTY (Mike Fisher):

Pulaski County saw isolated storms this week with rainfall amounts ranging from 0 to 3 inches of rain. The communities of Dublin and Newbern were hit by a severe storm causing roof damage, multiple lightning strike fires, many downed trees, lightning kills of livestock and some minor hail stripping of

corn. In the town of Dublin, hail was from dime to quarter size and accumulated 3 inches deep in places.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Pastures and hay crops continue to slowly improve from the previous dry conditions. Some alfalfa producers are contending with multiple hatches of leafhoppers that are causing some damage. Insect damage seems to be higher than normal at this time. Hay harvesting, pasture clipping, and routine farm maintenance are the main activities this week.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (Jamie Stowe):

In tobacco, topping continues to be active and a few producers have begun pulling bottom leaves. The few small showers that we have had over the past few weeks have really made a difference and the tobacco crop is looking good. Pasture land is beginning to green up and look healthier. Some cattle producers continue culling mature cows and selling weanling calves early because of concerns with adequate feed supply due to the pasture and hay shortage.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Many apples and peaches are having disease outbreaks in home gardens due to lack of spray programs. Many folks are planning fall plantings at this time. Cattle are being worked for upcoming special sales. Producers are also making plans for heifer development. Fall planting of grasses is being planned as well.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence, Jr.):

Farmers are trying to finish harvesting potatoes during a very wet period. Most acres are in with only small areas in fields abandoned due to wet conditions. Yields are good. Corn continues to have high potential. Some soybeans are still being planted but most are planted and sprayed by now. Farmers markets are busy during this period. Ample produce at most stands. Frequent rains and high humidity hamper hay and alfalfa curing.